

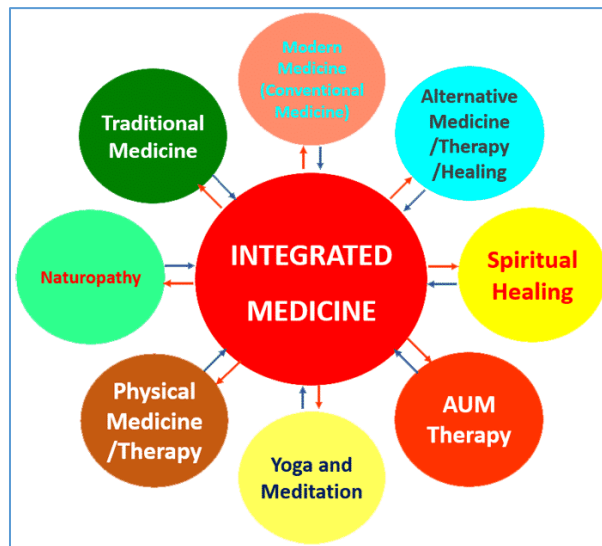
February - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Delhi Metro will soon launch India's first virtual shopping app called Momentum 2.0 for metro commuters.
 - It is to purchase products, book services and collect orders at the destination stations.

NATIONAL

Integrative Medicine Centres



- ❖ The Centre has decided to open Integrative Medicine Centres at all government medical establishments in the country especially at AIIMS.
- ❖ The Opening such centres will help in harmonising the Indian and modern systems of medicine and providing joint multidisciplinary care to patients.
- ❖ Integrative medicine is aimed at harnessing the potential of India's rich heritage and medical knowledge, along with using modern advancements in allopathy.

INTERNATIONAL

Asia Economic Dialogue 2023

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs recently hosted the Asia Economic Dialogue in Pune.

- ❖ Theme of the event is “Asia and the Emerging World Order”.
- ❖ The dialogue also focused on the metaverse, the role of the global south in shaping the G20 agenda, meeting climate targets, etc.



Air services agreement




- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the signing of an air services agreement between India and Guyana.

- ❖ It will pave the way for flight services between the two countries.
- ❖ The signing of an air services agreement with Guyana will enable a framework for provision of air services between the two countries
- ❖ As per the 2012 census, Indians have a sizeable presence in Guyana and are the largest ethnic group comprising about 40% of the population.
- ❖ India and Guyana are signatories to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention 1944).
- ❖ Currently, India has air services agreements with around 110 countries.

Mad Cow Disease case

What is mad cow disease?


Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is a neurological disorder in cattle. It is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion that infects a cow's central nervous system and causes brain and nerve cells to die. Prions are passed to humans through consumption, and that can trigger the human form of the disease.



Prion molecule

How it spreads from cows to humans

- 1** Person eats contaminated food. Prions are found primarily in brain or spinal cord tissue from infected animal.
- 2** After a person ingests infected meat, prions spread to the brain through the body's lymph nodes and immune system, where they can remain dormant for years.
- 3** Disease attacks nervous system. Outer layer of brain develops tiny holes, looks spongy. Host goes into seizures; death may occur.



- ❖ Brazil has halted its beef exports to China after a case of mad cow disease was confirmed in the northern state of Para.
- ❖ The disease is also called Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.
- ❖ It is a transmissible, slowly progressive, degenerative, and fatal disease.
- ❖ It affects the central nervous system of adult cattle.
- ❖ The incurable disease occurs due to an infection in a protein called a prion.
- ❖ The outbreak of the disease occurred in the US, China, Egypt, Hong Kong, Chile, UAE, etc.

- ❖ Brazil is the largest beef exporter in the world.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

LORA Ballistic Missile

- ❖ Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) has signed an MoU with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for domestic manufacture and supply of its LORA Weapon System for the Indian Tri-services.
- ❖ The state-of-the-art strategic weapon system weapon will be manufactured by BEL.
- ❖ LORA is a sea-to-ground and ground-to-ground system which comprises a long-range ballistic missile.
- ❖ It is a unique launcher, a command-and-control system, and a ground/marine support system.
- ❖ The LORA system provides ballistic assault capabilities for multiple ranges with a precision level of 10 meters circular error probability.



World's First Cloud-Built Demo Satellite

- ❖ JANUS-1 satellite that rode on Isro's new mini-rocket SSLV-D2 and reached its orbit successfully.
- ❖ It is the world's first satellite fully conceived, designed and manufactured using an Indian company's end-to-end cloud platform.

- ❖ It is a software defined 6U technology demonstration satellite designed and built using the Antaris cloud software platform and SatOS software.
- ❖ JANUS-1 was designed and built in just 10 months at a cost saving of 75% over comparable satellite missions.



Vertiplane X3 drone



- ❖ A Vertiplane X3 drone was used to deliver 2kg package of anti-tubercular drugs to a district hospital in Tehri Garhwal of Uttarakhand during the trial.
- ❖ The aerial distance of nearly 40 kilometres between the helipad at AIIMS and the hospital was covered in 30 minutes.
- ❖ The project will calculate the cost of effectiveness of delivering not only medicines but sputum samples to laboratories to support the country's programme to eliminate TB by 2025.
- ❖ This is not the first time a drone has been used to transport medical supplies.

- ❖ Another pilot was carried out by a Bangalore based startup in Arunachal Pradesh to deliver medicines.
- ❖ Other than that, there are e-pharmacies that have also introduced drone delivery.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Smart Wheat Variety



- ❖ IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute) developed the third Wheat Variety-HD-3385, with the same yields as HD-3410, plant height of just 95 cm and strong stems.
- ❖ It is least lodging-prone and most amenable for early sowing.
- ❖ IARI has registered HD-3385 with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA).
- ❖ This new variety of wheat has been specifically designed to withstand the high temperatures that are prevalent in many parts of India.
- ❖ Earlier ICAR's New Delhi-based Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) scientists have developed two varieties.
- ❖ The first, HDCSW-18, was released and officially notified in 2016.
- ❖ It was having a potential wheat yield of over 7 tonnes per hectare.
- ❖ But due to the plant heights it prone to lodging or bending over when their ear heads were heavy with well-filled grains.
- ❖ The second variety HD-3410 was released in 2022.

- ❖ It has higher yield potential (7.5 tonnes/hectare) with lower plant height (100-105 cm).

REPORTS AND INDICES

World's Top Independent Power Producer

- ❖ S&P Global Commodity Insights' Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings-2022 released recently.
- ❖ State-run NTPC Limited has been ranked top independent power producers and energy traders globally.
- ❖ These rankings are based on four key metrics- asset worth, revenues, profits and return on investment.
- ❖ NTPC currently contributes 24 per cent of the total electricity produced in India.
- ❖ By 2050, the corporation will contribute 50% of the total power production in the country.



STATES

Marine Spatial Planning Framework

- ❖ Puducherry has launched the country's first Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) framework.
- ❖ It is a part of a pact under the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative.

- ❖ It aims to balance growth alongside sustainable management of ocean resources and coastal environment preservation.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sansad Ratna Awards – 2023

Congratulations to all the
Sansad Ratna Awardees -2023

Shri. Bidyut Baran Mahato BJP, Jharkhand - Lok Sabha	Dr. John Brittas CPI-M, Kerala - Rajya Sabha
Dr. Sukanta Majumdar BJP, West Bengal - Lok Sabha	Dr. Manoj Kumar Jha RJD, Bihar - Rajya Sabha
Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma INC, Andaman Nicobar Islands - Lok Sabha	Smt. Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan NCP, Maharashtra - Rajya Sabha
Dr. Heena Vijayakumar Gavit BJP, Maharashtra - Lok Sabha	Shri. Vishambhar Prasad Nishad Samajwadi Party, UP - Rajya Sabha
Shri. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury INC, West Bengal - Lok Sabha	Smt. Chhaya Verma INC, Chhattisgarh - Rajya Sabha
Shri. Gopal Chinayya Shetty BJP, Maharashtra - Lok Sabha	Standing Committee Awardees
Shri. Sudhir Gupta BJP, Madhya Pradesh - Lok Sabha	The Finance Committee from Lok Sabha
Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe NCP, Maharashtra - Lok Sabha	Chairman – Shri Jayant Sinha BJP, Jharkhand
	Transport, Tourism and Culture Committee from Rajya Sabha
	Chairman – Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy YSR Congress, Andhra Pradesh
	Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award
	Shri T K Rangarajan Former Rajya Sabha MP and Senior CPIM Leader



- ❖ The 13th edition of the award ceremony is set to be held this year on March 25 in New Delhi.



- ❖ 13 MPs, 2 Parliamentary Committees and 1 Lifetime Achievement honour will be awarded during the 13th edition.
- ❖ They seek to recognise and felicitate the top-performing MPs on the basis of their work in the apex legislative body.
- ❖ The Sansad Ratna Awards were instituted in 2010, inspired by the teachings of former President APJ Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ The Awards are given by the Prime Point Foundation with support from IIT Madras.

